RULE I: REQUIREMENTS FOR THE JURIS DOCTOR DEGREE

A. Definitions

1. **Degree:** In all Academic Rules and Regulations, the term “Juris Doctor” or “J.D.” degree refers to both the residential and hybrid Juris Doctor programs, unless only one program is specified.

2. **Student:** In all Academic Rules and Regulations, all references to students in a Juris Doctor or JD program refers to both students in the residential and hybrid Juris Doctor programs, unless only one type of student is specified.

B. Authority to Grant the Degree

Pursuant to authority granted by the State of New Hampshire, University of New Hampshire Franklin Pierce School of Law (UNH Law) confers the Juris Doctor degree on candidates recommended by the faculty.

C. Eligibility to Receive the Degree

To be eligible for recommendation for the Juris Doctor degree, a student must complete the required curriculum by taking JD classes designated for the JD program in which a student is enrolled (hybrid or residential) as follows:

1. **Undergraduate Degree** - Receive an undergraduate degree from an accredited college or university and submit an official transcript, which includes the date the baccalaureate degree was conferred, no later than October 15; and

2. **Grade Point Average** - Achieve a grade point average equivalent to a C (2.00) or higher in all enrollment for credit toward the Juris Doctor degree; and

3. **Offset of Credits Below C Minus** - Offset all credits toward the degree in which the grade is below C minus with an equal number of credits in which the grade is B minus or above; and

4. **Minimum Credits** - Earn a minimum of eighty-five (85) credits not more than:
   a. Nine (9) of which are earned at grades below C minus,
   b. Eighteen (18) of which are earned in clinical work,
   c. The number of credits for distance learning permitted by the American Bar Association (ABA). Caution: Some states set their own maximum and students should check for states where they are likely to take the bar exam. (Revised by faculty 10/5/2017.)
   d. Eight (8) credits may be earned in Independent Study,
   e. Fifteen (15) credits may be earned from legal residencies,
   f. Twelve (12) credits may be earned in non-law, graduate-level work,
   g. Twenty-one (21) of which are earned in courses that do not qualify as "regularly scheduled class sessions" (as defined in ABA Standard 304(b), and Interpretation 304-3), which consists of the following coursework (or course opportunities) at UNH Law:
      i. Independent study;
      ii. Clinical courses that do not have a mandatory classroom component;
      iii. Legal Residencies;
      iv. Non-law, graduate level work; and
   v. Co-curricular activities such as law review, moot court, and trial competitions.


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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tr>
<td>LPR 905</td>
<td>Criminal Law</td>
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<tr>
<td>LSP 901</td>
<td>The Legal Profession</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>LSP 909</td>
<td>Civil Procedure</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td>LSP 918</td>
<td>Constitutional Law I</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>LSP 920</td>
<td>Contracts</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td>LSP 952</td>
<td>Property</td>
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<td>Torts</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>LSK 900</td>
<td>Legal Research and Information Literacy</td>
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<td>LSK 919</td>
<td>Legal Analysis and Writing I</td>
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<td>LSK 920</td>
<td>Legal Analysis and Writing 2</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Perspectives Course**

- LPI 912 Fundamentals of Law Practice (residential only) | 3 |
- or LIP 944 Fundamentals of Intellectual Property | 3 |

**Upper Level Required Courses**

- LSP 921 Constitutional Law II | 3 |
- LSP 951 Professional Responsibility | 3 |

**Upper Level Writing Requirement**

- 2-3 credits

**Upper Level Experiential Learning Requirement**

- 6 credits

Total Credits 46-47

Upper Level Required Courses—hybrid JD only. Hybrid JD courses must be completed as set forth on the Hybrid JD Curriculum Map established by the Curriculum Committee and posted on the UNH Law website. Curriculum Map may be updated with a minimum of one semester notice to students.

**Note:** In May 2022, the faculty voted to alter required curriculum in the Juris Doctor program. Constitutional Law will be taught over two semesters offered as Constitutional Law I and Constitutional Law II. Criminal Law has been adopted as a required 1L course. Administrative Process and Criminal Procedure I are no longer upper level required courses. This curricular change applies to both residential and hybrid Juris Doctor programs. The aforementioned alteration to curriculum will be implemented in the 2022-2023 academic year for the residential program and the 2023-2024 academic year for the hybrid program.

6. **Upper Level Writing and Experiential Learning requirements – separate courses**

Students must complete separate courses to fulfill the Upper-Level Writing and Experiential Learning requirements. This course may be designated as meeting each of the Upper-Level Writing and Experiential Learning requirements, but a student cannot fulfill both requirements by taking a single course. Hybrid JD students must complete the upper-level writing and upper-level experiential learning courses designated specifically for the Hybrid JD program and set forth on the Curriculum Map.

7. **Upper Level Writing and Experiential Learning requirements – credits**

   a. Students must complete a minimum of 2 credits for the Upper-Level Writing requirement.

   b. Students in the class of 2019 and thereafter must complete a minimum of 6 credits of Experiential Learning.

8. **Upper Level Writing and Experiential Learning requirements - timing**

Students may complete courses fulfilling the Upper Level Writing and Experiential Learning requirements after they have earned at least 26 credits. Students are encouraged to start fulfilling the Upper Level Writing and Experiential Learning requirements no later than in the next-to-last semester of law school. Failure to do so could result in
a delay of graduation. To enroll in a course meeting the Upper Level Writing requirement, a student must have satisfactorily completed Legal Analysis & Writing I & II and Legal Research and Information Literacy.

9. Advanced standing students for the Residential JD Program (adopted by faculty 10/1/2015)

This section applies only to advanced standing students who are transferring into the residential JD program from a law school outside of the United States or from UNH Law’s residential LL.M. degree programs. Advanced standing is not available for the hybrid JD program.

In addition to the required curriculum set out above, advanced standing students must complete the following courses:

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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
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<tr>
<td>LBS 907</td>
<td>Business Associations I</td>
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<tr>
<td>LCR 905</td>
<td>Criminal Law</td>
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<tr>
<td>LGP 924</td>
<td>Evidence</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>LBS 942</td>
<td>Wills and Estates</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Credits</td>
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</table>

Students who transfer into the JD program from UNH Law’s residential LL.M. program will not be required to take LGP 920 Contracts, LSK 919 Legal Analysis and Writing I, LSK 900 Legal Research and Information Literacy if in LIP 894 American Legal Process and Analysis I, LIP 895 American Legal Process and Analysis II, LIP 855 Graduate Programs Contracts if:

Students must meet the requirements above for each class for which they are seeking a Rule I waiver.

Students admitted under this section may enroll in no more than one 4-credit Legal Residency or one 4-credit clinic.

The provisions of this paragraph may be waived if the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and the Assistant Dean of Students find that the coursework required by this paragraph has been completed under the terms of Rule X or because meeting the requirements of Rule I would be unduly repetitive.

a. They have achieved a grade of HH; and

b. The professor of the course recommends that they have achieved competency in the subject matter such that taking the JD courses would be unduly repetitive.

10. Residency – “Residency” is defined as time spent enrolled as a student at the law school. “Geographic Residency” is defined as time spent at the Concord, New Hampshire campus of UNH Franklin Pierce School of Law.

a. Residential Students must:

1. Spend a minimum of six (6) semesters of full-time enrollment, including a minimum of four (4) semesters in geographic residency at UNH Law, or

2. Spend the equivalent of (1.) to the extent permitted in subdivision D (“Residency”) of this part.

b. Hybrid JD Students:

1. Have no semester-long geographic residency requirement.

2. Must complete a minimum of eight (8) semesters of enrollment.

3. Must complete no less than eleven (11) Immersions. These Immersions must be completed in person, at the Concord campus or at a location designated by the law school.

c. Transfer Students:

1. Students transferring into the residential or Hybrid JD program may reduce the number of credits spent in residency at Franklin Pierce by two semesters. Thus, transfer residential students would spend a minimum of four (4) semesters in residency, and transfer Hybrid JD students a minimum of six (6) semesters in residency.

2. Complete the requirements for obtaining the Juris Doctor Degree no later than 84 months after commencing the Juris Doctor degree program at UNH Law or a law school from which UNH Law has accepted transfer credit.

3. Academic Probation - Be eligible to continue as a candidate for the Juris Doctor degree under Rule VI.A.(1) taking into account the semester immediately preceding graduation and have satisfied the terms of any applicable probation; and

4. Financial Responsibility - Satisfy outstanding financial obligations to UNH Law; and

5. Conduct Code Violation - Not be subject to a complaint of an alleged violation of the Conduct Code that if determined against the student could result in the suspension or dismissal of the student.

6. Preliminary Bar (adopted by faculty 5/1/2014) (revised by faculty 5/4/2017) - All first year students, transfer students, and advanced standing students shall take a preliminary bar exam administered by UNH Law. This exam shall not count for course credit, GPA calculation, or class rank calculation. Scores on the preliminary bar exam shall not be recorded on students’ transcripts, although completion of the preliminary bar shall be noted on transcripts. All residential first-year students and transfer students shall take the preliminary bar in the spring of 1L year (or first year); retake in spring of 2L (if needed). Hybrid JD students will take the preliminary bar in the spring of 2L year; retake in spring of 3L year (if needed). Students who are unable to sit on the designated date due to an emergency, religious reason, or other circumstances beyond their control shall contact the Director of Academic Success as soon as possible upon realizing they will not be able to sit and will work with the Director to make arrangements to take the test at an alternate time that is reasonable both for the affected students and UNH Law. Students shall complete the preliminary bar exam in one of the following ways:

a. receiving a score at or above the level set by the Committee on Academic Standing and Success (CASS) in consultation with the Academic Success Program when they take the preliminary bar in the spring of their 1L year (or, if they are transfer students, the spring of their first year at UNH Law);

b. coming under “early intervention” jurisdiction of CASS (which is not designated on transcripts), fulfilling reasonable program requirements established by CASS in consultation with the Academic Success Program to address specific weaknesses in substantive knowledge and / or skills, and re-taking the preliminary bar exam in the spring of their 2L year (or, if they are transfer students, the spring of their second year of studies at UNH Law), should they not receive the set score in their 1L year (or, if they are transfer students, the spring of their first year at UNH Law). Students who first took the exam in the spring of their 1L year and do not achieve the set score in the spring of their second year shall have the option of re-taking the preliminary bar
exam in the spring of their 3L year but shall not be required to take it.

**D. Determination of Class Membership**

For purposes of determining eligibility for the Juris Doctor degree under subdivision B of this rule, a student shall be a member of the class with which the student completes the majority of the courses then required in the second semester of the first-year Juris Doctorate curriculum.

**E. Residency**

1. **Definition of “Full-Time Enrollment” for Residential Students.** A residential student is enrolled “full time” if the student is:
   1. Registered for a total of at least twelve (12) credits at the end of the open enrollment period; and
   2. The student completes at least ten (10) credits that semester.

2. **Definition of “Semester.”** A “semester” is one of two terms in an academic year.

Each residential semester contains at least fourteen (14) continuous weeks of classes, subject to holidays and vacations, followed by reading and examination periods. Enrollment in credit offerings in a summer term or another term outside the academic year is not enrollment in a semester and thus does not constitute residency credit. Summer and other term courses do count however towards total credits earned and towards a student's GPA.

3. **Continuous Full-Time Enrollment for Six Semesters for Residential JD Students.** A student must complete within a three-year period the six (6) semesters of full-time enrollment required for the Juris Doctor degree. The only exceptions to this requirement are:
   a. A leave of absence as provided in Rule XI;
   b. Admission of a student with advanced residency standing under Rule X;
   c. The suspension of a student as a probationary term prescribed by the Academic Standing Committee under subdivision A(3) of Rule VII;
   d. The permission granted by the Assistant Dean of Students to enroll in fewer credits than qualify as full-time enrollment in a semester as
      i. a short-term accommodation in an extraordinary situation beyond the control or responsibility of the student or;
      ii. a short- or long-term accommodation based on disability;
      iii. or the experiment in part-time enrollment where full-time enrollment is not economically feasible; and
   e. The failure of a student who has registered for full-time enrollment to complete full-time enrollment because of receiving an F or U grade in one or more offerings.

4. **Curing a Deficiency in Full-Time Enrollment for Residential JD Students.** A student permitted to enroll under subdivision (d)(i) immediately above, for less than full-time residency or a student who fails to complete full-time enrollment in a semester as provided in subdivision (e) immediately above, should cure the deficiency by enrolling in courses in the summer or otherwise outside the academic year. If such enrollment is not practicable, a student may cure the deficiency by enrollment, which may be less than full-time, in a seventh semester. Residency credit may be earned under this subdivision in the ratio that the credits enrolled in or earned, whichever is appropriate, bear to the minimums specified in subdivision (1) above.

5. **Requirements for Hybrid JD Students**

a. **Definition of “Full Time Enrollment” for Hybrid JD students.** A Hybrid JD student is enrolled “full time” if the student is enrolled in a minimum of seven (7) credits each semester and no more than a maximum of twelve (12) credits.

   (1.) Students may be allowed to exceed the 12-credit semester maximum by special permission of the Dean or her designee, in accordance with an approved plan of study.

b. **Definition of “Part Time Enrollment” for a Hybrid JD student.** A Hybrid JD student is enrolled “part time” if the student is enrolled in less than seven (7) credits.

c. **Definition of “Semester.”** A “semester” is one of three terms in an academic year. Each semester contains at least eleven (11) weeks of continuous classes, subject to holidays and vacations, followed by reading and examination periods. Semesters may vary in length.

d. **Continuous Enrollment for Hybrid JD Students.** A student must complete the hybrid JD with a minimum of eight (8) semesters of continued enrollment. Students are presumptively enrolled as full-time students with a minimum of seven (7) credits for ten (10) semesters. Deviation from this expectation is allowed as follows:

   (1.) Declaration of Part-Time Status for a given semester
   (2.) Approval from the Dean or her designee to take more than 12 credits as part of an approved plan of study per section E.5.1.
   (3.) A leave of absence as provided in Rule XI;
   (4.) The suspension of a student as a probationary term prescribed by the Academic Standing Committee under subdivision A(3) of Rule VII;
   (5.) A short-term accommodation in an extraordinary situation beyond the control or responsibility of the student or
   (6.) A short- or long-term accommodation based on disability;
   (7.) The failure of a student who has registered for full-time enrollment to complete full-time enrollment because of receiving an F or U grade in one or more offerings.